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(212) 344-8008 FAX: (212) 344-8560 January 24, 2008

Re: USA v. Almonte, et al. 07 CR 619 (RMB)

BY HAND

MENO ENDORSED

Judge Richard M. Berman United States Courthouse 500 Pearl St. New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Berman:

I am writing this letter to request an adjournment of the trial of this mattter which has been tentatively scheduled to begin on February 25, 2008.

As you may recall, I was assigned to this matter as new CJA counsel on December 18, 2007. Substantial discovery materials were subsequently provided to me and I have been reviewing them. In addition, the defendant has been engaged in plea discussions with the government. Additional time is needed to review the discovery and to continue plea discussions with the government.

Accordingly, at the status conference scheduled on February 4, 2008, the defendant will be requesting an adjournment of the tentative trial date. AUSA Brendan McGuire has informed me that the government has no objection to this request.

cc: AUSA Brendan McGuire (by fax)

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Joel M. Stein, Esg. Counsel to defendant Andre Almonte

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(4) 4:30		

SO ORDERED:	Ruhard M.B	2